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Fort Hays State University Faculty Senate Minutes, February 11, 1986

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 11, 1986

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bill Rickman, Faculty Senate President, at 3:30 p.m. in the Pioneer Lounge of the Memorial Union.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Dr. Brent Spaulding, Mr. Frank Nichols, Mr. Jack Logan, Ms. Joan Rumpel, Ms. Sandra Rupp, Dr. Delbert Marshall, Dr. Steve Shapiro (alternate for Dr. Marcia Bannister), Dr. Lloyd Frerer, Dr. John Ratzlaff, Dr. Bill Rickman, Dr. Billy Daley, Dr. Carl Singleton, Mr. David Ison, Dr. Jean Salien, Dr. Mark Giese, Dr. Raymond Wilson, Mr. Glen McNeil, Mr. Jim Walters, Dr. Jeffrey Barnett (alternate for Dr. Elton Beougher), Dr. Ronald Sandstrom, Dr. Martin Shapiro, Ms. Mary Anne Kennedy, Ms. Eileen Curl, Dr. Paul Faber (alternate for Dr. Stephen Tramel), Dr. Roger Pruitt, Dr. Lawrence V. Gould, Dr. Robert Markley, Dr. Phyllis Tiffany, Dr. Nevell Razak, Mr. Mac Reed.

Members absent: Dr. Zoran Stevanov, Dr. Robert A. Nicholson, Dr. Thomas L. Wenke, Dr. Art Hoernicke, Dr. Ninia Smith, Dr. Tom Kerns, Dr. Lewis Miller.

Others present: Dr. Jim Murphy.

Approval of minutes: The January 9, 1986 minutes were corrected to indicate Dr. Jean Salien was present. There being no other corrections, the minutes were approved as corrected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling attention to item #1, Dr. Rickman reported that he and Dr. Giese along with other Faculty Senate Presidents had meetings with a number of Kansas legislators last month. There were a variety of views or perspectives shared by the legislators concerning the likely scenerio during the Legislative Session. At this point, there are too many unknowns to predict the likely outcome with regard to funding of higher education in Kansas. These unknowns include the current confusion over Hayden's favoring or not favoring the sales tax increase. Referring to Mr. Hayden's speech in Wichita, Dr. Rickman indicated that Hayden had said he would get on board with the sales tax increase, but in today's newspaper, he was quoted as saying he was still opposed to the sales tax increase. There are apparently many problems to resolve before funding decisions for FY'87 are made.

Dr. Rickman directed attention to the second part of Item #1, commenting that the information represents the text of a press release from the Council of Senate Presidents on the 16th of this month. The prioritized salary alternatives were given in response to the legislator's request for evaluation of salary alternatives. The Council of Faculty Senate President's current position is as follows:

1. Faculties found the Regents' Level C, the "7% budget," quite conservative, a maintenance level budget. COFSP expressed support of the Regents' budget when it came out in November and continues to support it as the only proposal that even approaches maintaining the Kansas university system.

2. The proposal by a pair of legislators that faculty receive a 3% salary increase in addition to a 5% increase in retirement for a total of 8% increase this year seems second choice. They say that this would match the 7% salary + 1% retirement in the Regents' proposal. Several legislators asked, if we had to choose between teaching staff and OOE funding, which? We said staff. But in general our discussions assumed comparable OOE and salary funding.
3. Third choice would be the 5% retirement increase without other salary increments with comparable OOE support.
4. Fourth choice would be lesser amounts of salary and/or retirement increases. Legislators seem to agree that 2-4% can be assumed.
5. We would regard legislation of one of these lesser amounts as a clear signal that higher education is not a high priority of the Legislature.

In announcement item #2, Dr. Rickman reported that the Board of Regents at its January meeting approved preliminary plans for renovation of Sheridan Coliseum and gave authority for FHSU to proceed with final planning.

In announcement item #3, Dr. Rickman reported that the Council of Presidents at its meeting on January 16th, 1986, had reached closure on the issue of a Regents' wide system of evaluation of instruction by approving the following statement:

The Council of Chief Academic Officers and Council of Presidents reaffirms its support of systematic evaluation of instruction. The Councils believe this is done most effectively on an institution by institution, and in some cases discipline by discipline basis. That evaluation should include student participation. The Councils urge the Regents to continue to expect systematic evaluation of instruction with the responsibility for implementation to continue with the individual institution.

In announcement item #4, Dr. Rickman reported that the House of Representatives passed the Tax Reform Act of 1985 (H.R.3838) on December 17, 1985. That bill is now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee. At least two major provisions, dealing with the exempt status of retirement annuities, appears to be potentially detrimental to the economic welfare of faculty. The detrimental provisions that apply to tax-deferred annuities (TDA) include the following:

1. A \$7,000 limit (formerly a \$30,000 upper limit) will be imposed on yearly contributions and those contributions will count dollar for dollar against the \$2,000 you can apply to an IRA. For example, if your 9 month salary is \$40,000 (wishful thinking!), your current required 5% contribution is \$2,000. You would not be able to contribute to an IRA in that tax year.

2. Early withdrawals from a TDA will be subject to a 15% penalty tax (in addition to the tax from declaring withdrawals as ordinary income). The 15% penalty tax will apply retroactively to past contributions to TDA's when no penalties existed. Further, the right to make withdrawals from a TDA (even with a 15% tax penalty) will likely be further restricted.

Dr. Rickman commented that this is a bread and butter issue affective faculty since the tax reform act changes retirement annuities and has no provisions that are favorable to faculty. He indicated the need to send written responses on the pending changes, and that he would provide a convenient format and information to lobby against these proposed changes by faculty mail.

Dr. Rickman added two announcements to the agenda. In announcement #5, Dr. Rickman reported that the budget resolution passed by the Faculty Senate last month has been transmitted to all 165 legislators and Governor Carlin, and he has received several responses. All responses have been very positive, very supportive of higher education. Dr. Rickman commented that it is not too surprising, however, when letters arrive from Senator Jerry Carr, who represents the Emporia district, and Senator Witt Winter, who represents Lawrence, that are favorable.

In announcement #6, Dr. Rickman reported that he had received a call from Sally Ward in the Alumni Association requesting that Dr. Rickman ask faculty to make additional nominations for the Young Alumni Awards. The original request for nominations had been sent in November, and she had received only three nominations from faculty identifying graduates of the class of 1976.

Dr. Rickman called for comments on the announcements or additional announcements that need to be made. There were none offered from the floor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs--Dr. Sandstrom

Dr. Sandstrom indicated that Academic Affairs had two motions to present. The first is to add Communications 120, a 3 hr course, to the list of approved courses for General Education. Dr. Sandstrom commented that the course had been previously rejected because it required a one hour lab. The course has been altered by the department's withdrawing the one hour lab requirement. In its present form, the application for General Education status has been approved by the General Education Committee, by the Academic Affairs Committee, and by the Dean.

Motion I: To approve adding Communications 120, a 3 hr course, to the list of approved courses for General Education.

Dr. Rickman called for discussion. Dr. Markley asked whether the lab was optional. Dr. Sandstrom indicated that he hadn't asked whether students could take the lab by itself. Dr. Shapiro explained that the laboratory is offered in conjunction with Introduction to Theatre, a three hour course, and is required of majors. This course has a separate line number.

Hearing no further discussion, Dr. Rickman called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Sandstrom presented motion #2, to remove Economics 378, Environmental and Energy Economics from the list of courses approved for General Education. Dr. Sandstrom commented that in June, 1985, the Economics Department had requested that this course as well as its courses in Micro Economics and Macro Economics be reviewed by the General Education Committee to determine whether the courses should be continued in the General Education program. In its presentation to the General Education Committee, the Economics Department indicated its desire to remove Economics 378 from its General Education offerings.

Motion II: To withdraw Economics 378, Environmental and Energy Economics from the list of General Education courses.

Dr. Rickman called for additional discussion; hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion #2 passed unanimously.

Dr. Rickman recognized Dr. Murphy who asked the effective date on each of the motions. Dr. Rickman responded that he assumed the effective date to be Fall Semester 1986.

UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS--Dr. Larry Gould

Dr. Gould indicated that University Affairs had only one motion to present. The motion is to approve the revisions of the procedure for approval of new courses and new programs.

Dr. Gould commented that there were two major issues, one, that the language of the policy given in the Handbook does not coincide with actual practice followed over the last couple of years. The second issue is that there is some encroachment in the existing language of the Faculty Senate on the Graduate School in terms of responsibilities and jurisdiction. On the initiative of the administration, and Dr. Murphy, the Faculty Senate has been attempting to revise this. All three of the resulting efforts have been rejected. The most recent one was analyzed by the members of the University Affairs Committee who found that the rejection was a result of ambiguous phrasing. The suggestion is that Faculty Senate has the prerogative to review new Graduate Programs. The second finding of the committee is that there is some imprecision in the language relating to the Graduate Council's prerogative to review Faculty Senate pronouncements. The committee had consulted with Dr. Murphy and Dr. Rickman and has come up with language that is acceptable to the administration and resolves the ambiguity and imprecision of the earlier versions of this policy.

Motion: To approve the revisions of the wording of policy for the procedure for approval of new courses and new programs.

Dr. Rickman asked for further discussion on the motion to amend the language of the policy for approving new courses and new programs. Hearing none, Dr. Rickman called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Rickman indicated that there were no reports from either the Student Affairs Committee or the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Rickman called for any unfinished or old business, and recognized Dr. Ratzlaff. Dr. Ratzlaff discussed the item of faculty input in the planning of graduation ceremonies appearing in the June 1985 Faculty Senate Minutes. He called attention to Dr. Beougher's suggestion at that time that the subject be considered by the new University Affairs Committee during the 1985-86 year. Dr. Ratzlaff indicated that in the September 1985 Faculty Senate minutes, Dr. Rickman had assigned this subject to the Student Affairs Committee to find what students value most highly in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Ratzlaff called for an update on the committee's work.

Dr. Rickman indicated that he did not know the current status of Student Affairs Committee deliberations. He did comment that a survey was being conducted, and an attempt made to involve the Student Senate membership in the discussion.

Dr. Ratzlaff asked whether the matter had been reassigned. Dr. Rickman indicated that it had not been reassigned, that his reason for assigning it to Student Affairs was the need to involve Student Senate representatives, and that work loads among the various committees needed to be kept equal. Dr. Rickman indicated that at the next meeting, he hoped Dr. Kerns would be able to provide an update for the Senate.

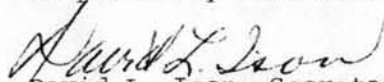
NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Rickman cited the Faculty Senate's approval of an amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws to expand the Standing Committee structure by adding a Legislative Affairs Committee. This proposal has been referred to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee for its deliberation. A report will be forthcoming perhaps as early as the March, but no later than the April Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Rickman called for any further new business. There being none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Ison, Secretary
Faculty Senate